

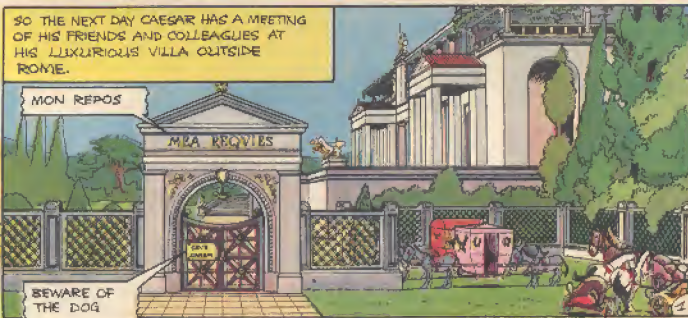


# Asterix and the Roman agent

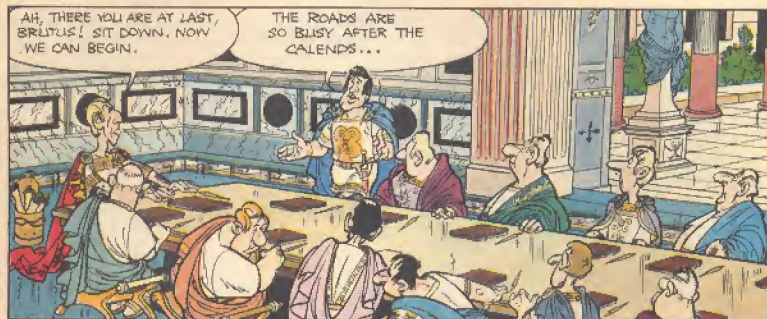
by GOSCINNY and UDERZO











AH, THERE YOU ARE AT LAST, BRUTUS! SIT DOWN, NOW WE CAN BEGIN.

THE ROADS ARE SO BUSY AFTER THE CALENDS...

THE SENATE WANTS TO TAKE ITS REVENGE ON ME FOR CUTTING ITS POWER. I MUST SHOW THEM WHO'S THE BOSS, AND TO DO THAT I'LL HAVE TO WIPE OUT THIS WRETCHED GALLISH VILLAGE...



LET'S HAVE YOUR IDEAS... SPEAK UP



ET TU, BRUTE

I SUGGEST BRUTE FORCE!



THEY HAVE A MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES THEM INVINCIBLE, AND DO PLUT THAT DAGGER AWAY YOU IDIOT, YOU'LL DO YOURSELF AN INJURY!

STOP ME IF I'M ON THE WRONG TRACK, BUT WHAT ABOUT BUYING THEM OFF?



THESE BARBARIANS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY, IF THEY WERE, THE MAGIC POTION WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE MARKET LONG AGO!

THIS IS ONLY A SUGGESTION, BUT...

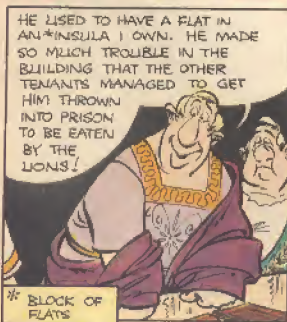


...THEIR STRENGTH SPRINGS FROM THEIR SOLIDARITY. IF WE COULD SOW A BIT OF DISCORD IN THE VILLAGE, THEY WOULD SPLIT UP AND THE POTION WOULDN'T MATTER ANY MORE...



I KNOW THE GALLIS ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR INCESSANT ARGUMENTS, BUT THIS LOT STICK TOGETHER THROUGHT THICK AND THIN

J.C. I'VE GOT THE VERY MAN! HE'LL SPIT THEM UP FOR YOU!



HE LIED TO HAVE A FLAT IN AN INSULA I OWN. HE MADE SO MUCH TROUBLE IN THE BUILDING THAT THE OTHER TENANTS MANAGED TO GET HIM THROWN INTO PRISON TO BE EATEN BY THE LIONS!

\* BLOCK OF FLATS



WHERE IS THIS TROUBLEMAKER OF YOURS?

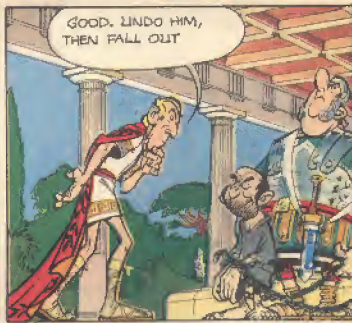
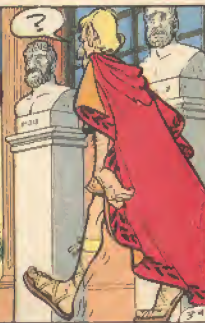
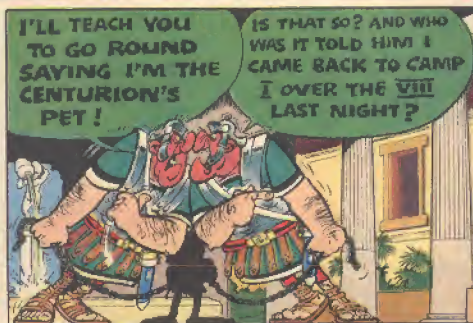
HE'S STILL IN PRISON, WHEN THEY PLUT HIM IN THE ARENA, THE LIONS ATE ONE ANOTHER!



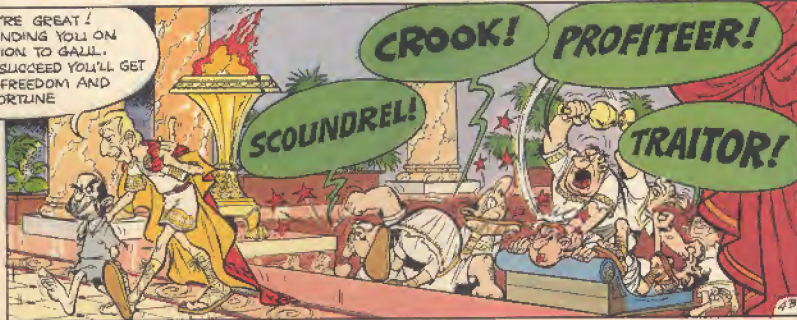
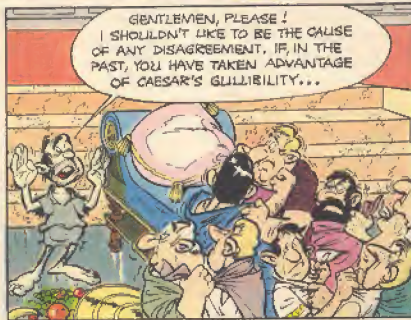
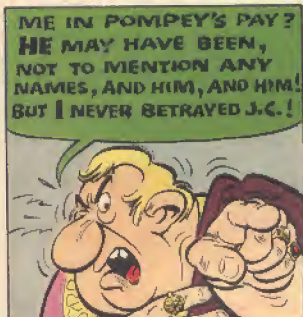
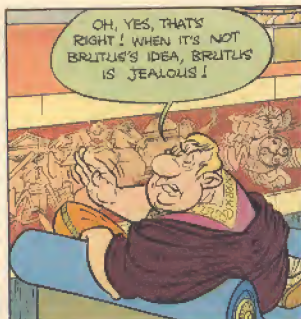
HAVE HIM BROUGHT TO ME! NOW FOR SOME FOOD. ET TU, BRUTE!

THESE CLASSICAL ALLUSIONS ARE BEGINNING TO GET ON MY NERVES! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL...











MEANWHILE, THINGS ARE MUCH THE SAME IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE...



LIFE'S GOOD, O DRUID!

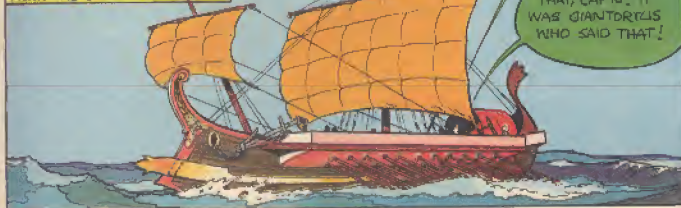
TOO GOOD, ASTERIX! THE ROMANS ARE BEHAVING THEMSELVES, WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY WORRIES, OUR BARD HAS LOST HIS VOICE - IT CAN'T LAST... I FEEL THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING



OUR DRUID'S CHANGED! HE'S GETTING PESSIMISTIC IN HIS OLD AGE



HOWEVER, THE DRUID'S PREMONITION IS NOT WITHOUT FOUNDATION. DANGER IS PLOUGHING ITS WAY TOWARDS GAUL ON BOARD A ROMAN GALLEY WHERE EVERYONE IS ARGUING, FROM THE CAPTAIN...



WELL NOW, ASERDEENANGUS, SO IT SEEMS I'M NOTHING BUT AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE?

I NEVER SAID THAT, CAP'N! IT WAS GIANTORTUS WHO SAID THAT!

... DOWN TO THE GALLEY SLAVES

WAS IT YOU WHO TOLD THE OTHER LADS I WASN'T PULLING MY WEIGHT?

SHUT UP AND ROW!



WELL, GIANTORTUS DID SAY THAT IT WAS YOU WHO SAID I WAS NOTHING BUT AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE!

AND I SAY THAT IF GIANTORTUS SAID THAT, GIANTORTUS IS A LIAR!



PIRATE SHIP TO PORT!



DID YOU HEAR THAT, CAPTAIN?

NO! NO ONE'S TO LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S BEEN SENT TO COVENTRUM!



HE DARED TO SAY THAT WHILE WE WERE AT SEA OUR WIVES WERE ALL OUT AT ORGIES!



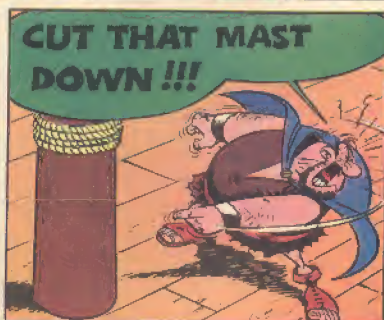
IF THAT'S THE WAY THE LAND LIES, I SHAN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!!!



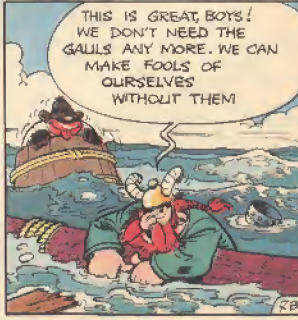
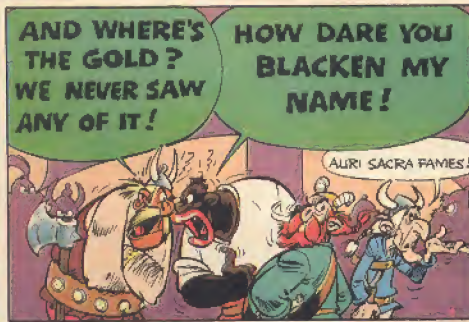
WUH! THEY'RE THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO'D SAY I ONLY GOT INTO THE NAVY BECAUSE MY WIFE IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF JULIUS CAESAR'S SECOND COUSIN TWICE REMOVED!



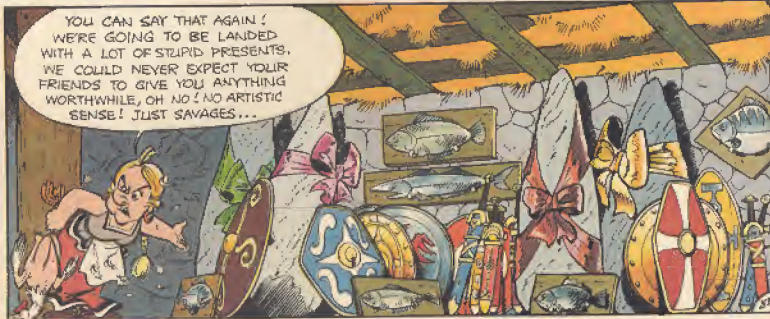
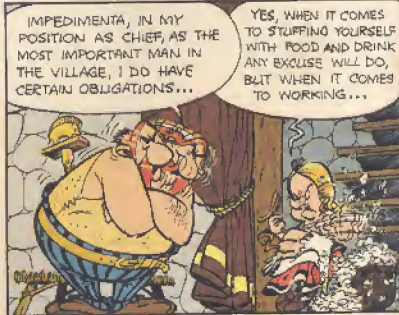














IN THE TENT OF THE CENTURION IN COMMAND  
OF THE ROMAN CAMP OF AQUARIUM...



... AND THAT POTION OF THEIRS  
MUST BE STRONG STUFF - THEY'RE  
FULL OF TEAM SPIRIT!



I KNOW ALL THAT,  
FELIX PLATYPUS, BUT YOU  
KNOW WHAT CAESAR SAID:  
YOU MUST TAKE YOUR  
ORDERS FROM ME!

I DON'T OBJECT TO THAT  
AT ALL, CONVOLVULUS.  
I JUST DON'T THINK THAT YOU'LL  
MANAGE TO SPLIT THEM  
UP...



YOU HAVE GIVEN ME  
THE NAME AND DESCRIPTION  
OF EVERY ONE OF THOSE  
NUT CASES. NOW, I  
NEED THAT!



THAT?

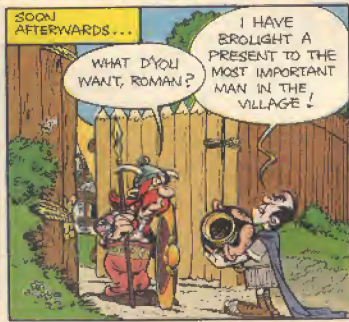


IT'S JUST THAT  
THIS VASE IS PART OF  
THE SPOILS FROM ONE OF  
MY CAMPAIGNS...

YES, YOUR JUNIOR  
OFFICERS TOLD ME YOU  
HAD SOME INDIVIDUAL  
IDEAS ABOUT SHARING  
OUT THE BOOTY



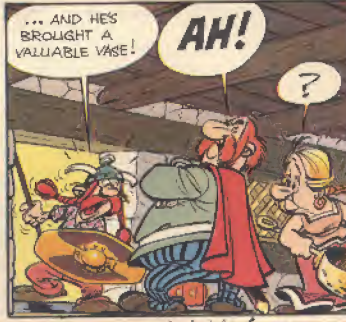
GET ALL MY  
JUNIOR  
OFFICERS  
FALLEN IN!



SOON  
AFTERWARDS...

WHAT DO YOU  
WANT, ROMAN?

I HAVE  
BROUGHT A  
PRESENT TO THE  
MOST IMPORTANT  
MAN IN THE  
VILLAGE!



... AND HE'S  
BROUGHT A  
VALUABLE VASE!

AH!

?

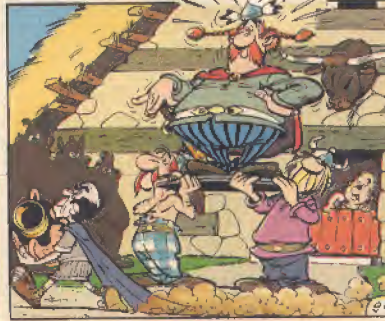


PORTERS!

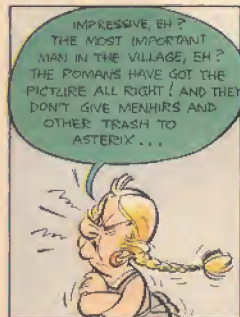
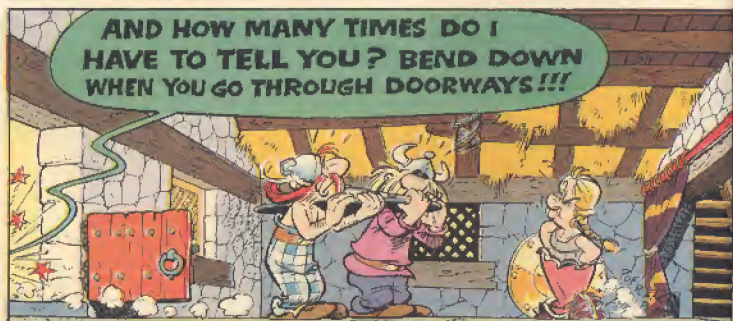
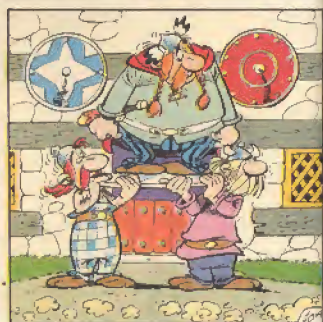
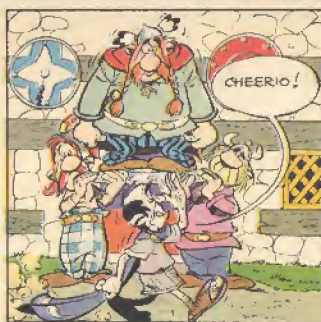
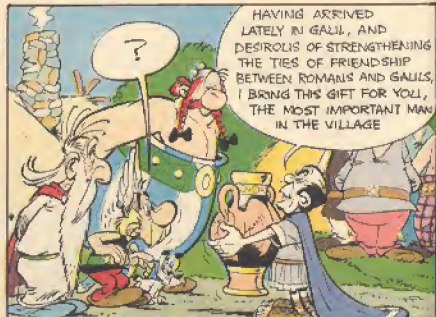
CHICK!



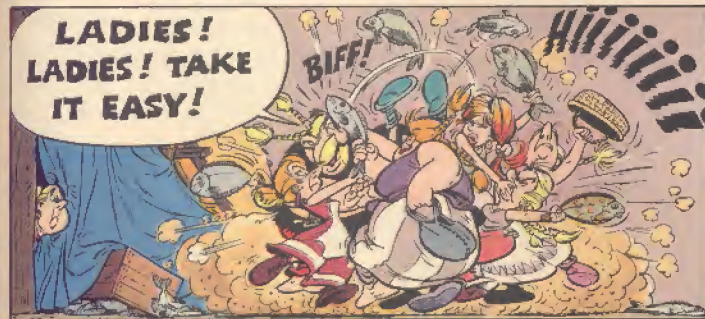
HERE HE COMES! RIGHT,  
BOYS! SHOW A BIT OF  
DIGNITY! WE DON'T WANT  
TO LOOK AS IF WE'RE  
EXPECTING HIM!



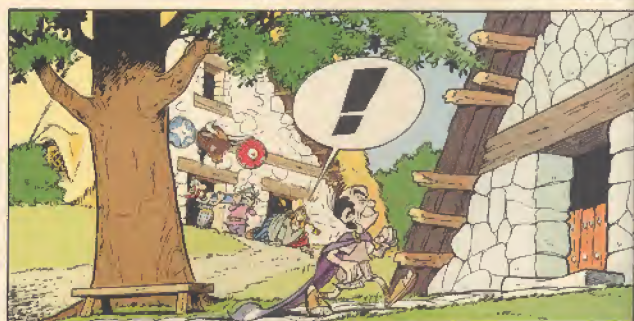
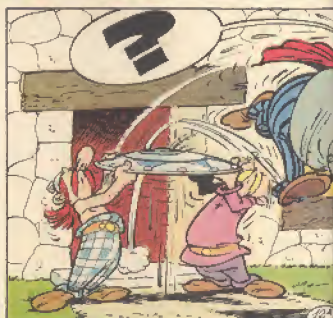
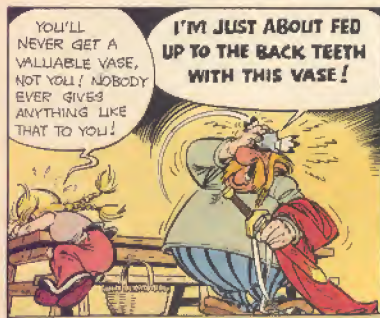
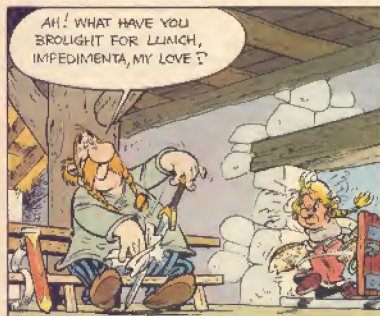




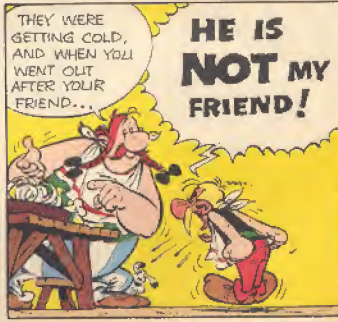
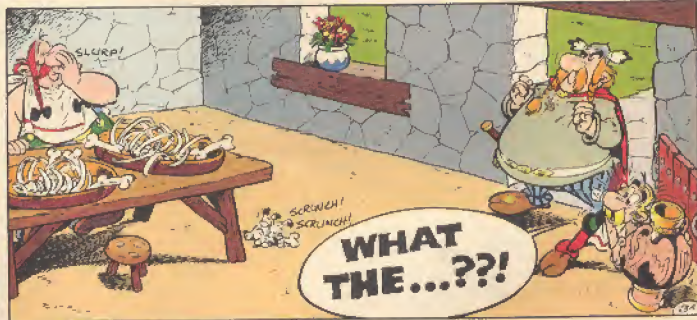
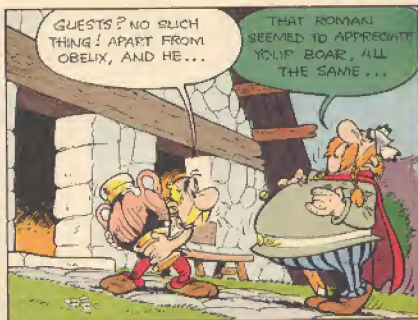




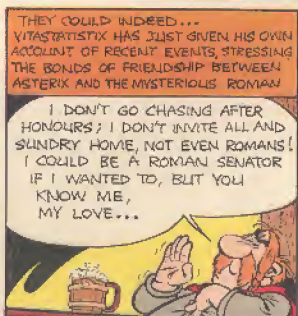
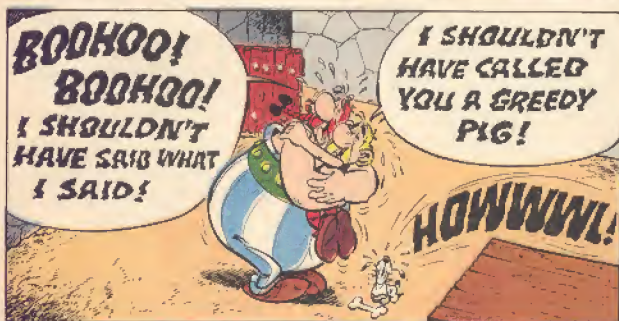
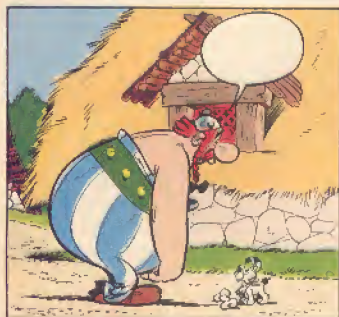




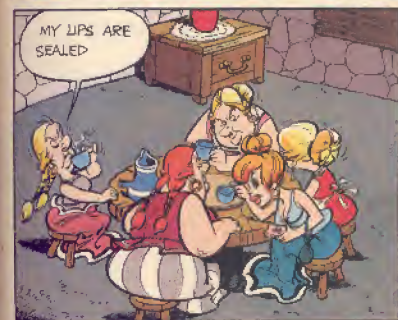
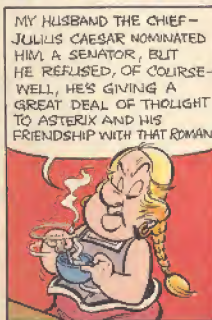
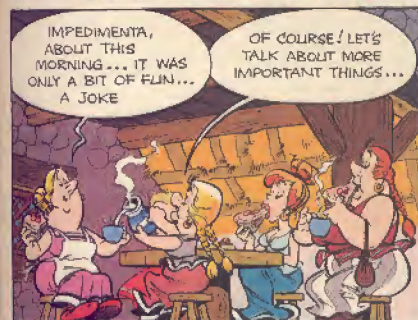




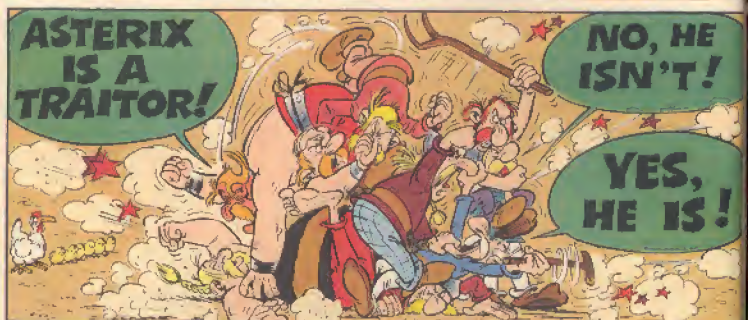
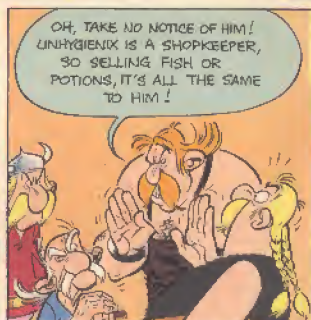
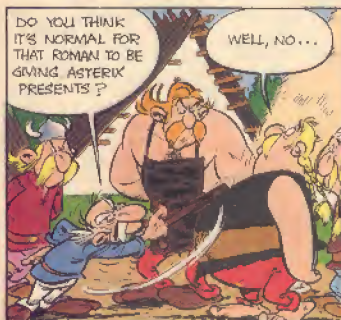
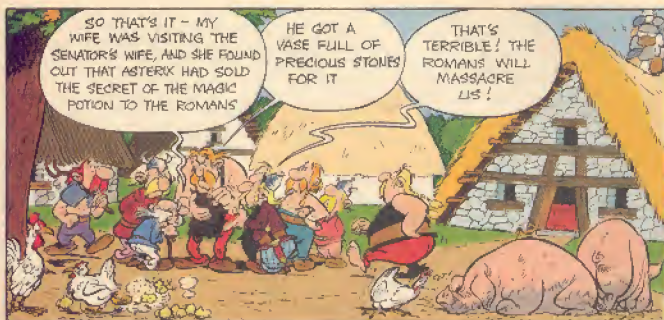










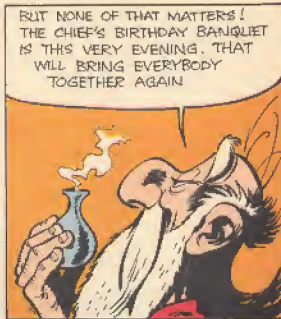




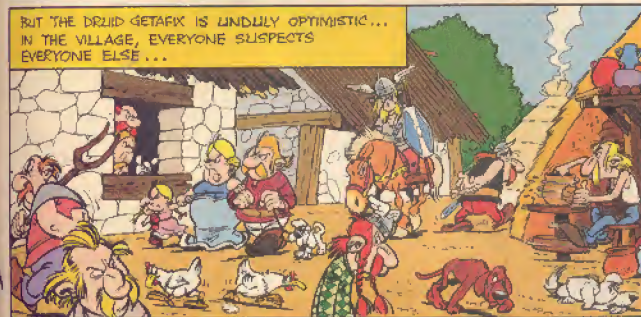


I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE VILLAGERS' ATTITUDE... SURELY THEY DON'T SUSPECT ME JUST BECAUSE OF THAT ROMAN'S VISIT!

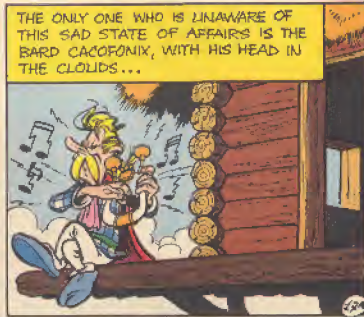
HM... SLANDER CAN BE DANGEROUS. TOUTATIS ALONE KNOWS WHAT IDEAS THEY'RE DREAMING UP!



BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS! THE CHIEF'S BIRTHDAY BANQUET IS THIS VERY EVENING. THAT WILL BRING EVERYBODY TOGETHER AGAIN.



BUT THE DRUID GETAFK IS UNDULY OPTIMISTIC... IN THE VILLAGE, EVERYONE SUSPECTS EVERYONE ELSE...



THE ONLY WHO IS UNAWARE OF THIS SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS IS THE BARD CACOFONIX, WITH HIS HEAD IN THE CLOUDS...



AND THAT EVENING, DURING THE BANQUET, NO ONE IS SPEAKING TO ANYBODY ELSE...

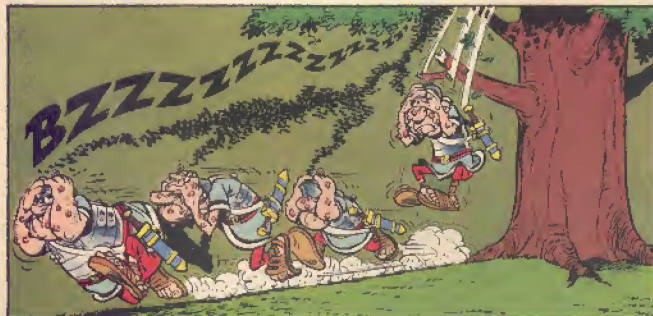
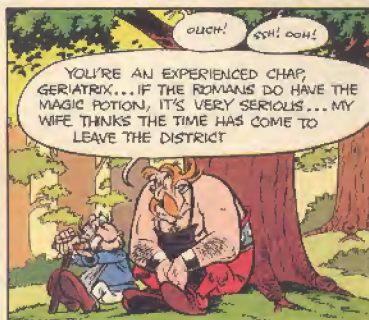
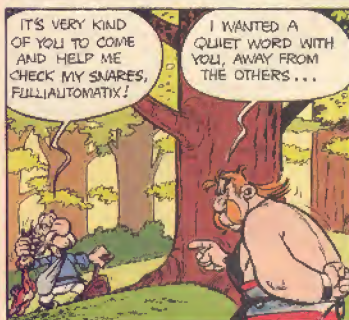


... IN FACT, THE BARD HAS THE STRANGE IMPRESSION OF BEING ALONE AT THE TABLE. YOU MIGHT ALMOST THINK IT WAS THE END...

**...THE END OF THE VILLAGE!**



NEXT DAY, A ROMAN PATROL IS SCOUTING AROUND IN THE FOREST, TAKING NO CHANCES...







WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BY JUPITER?

WE'VE FOUND OUT WE'VE GOT THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION...

ALL THE LADS ARE ASKING WHY YOU DON'T GIVE US ANY, INSTEAD OF LETTING US GET BASHED ABOUT BY THOSE GAULISH NUTS!



TEEHEE! YOUR MAGIC POTION IS ME!



A CAULDRON, QUICK! GET HIM STEWED!

NO THANKS! I'M NOT EATING THAT, I NEVER TOUCH IT!



SIMMER DOWN! EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!



WE'LL SPREAD IT ABOUT THAT WE DO HAVE THE MAGIC POTION, AND I PROMISE YOU THE GAULS WILL SOON SPLIT UP AND GO AWAY



WE ARE SOLDIERS! WE DON'T LIKE THE DEVILOUS WAYS OF CIVIL SERVANTS! WE PREFER HONOURABLE BATTLES, THE CLASH OF ARMS, THE CLARION CALL OF BUCINAS...



...BLOOD, TOIL, TEARS AND...

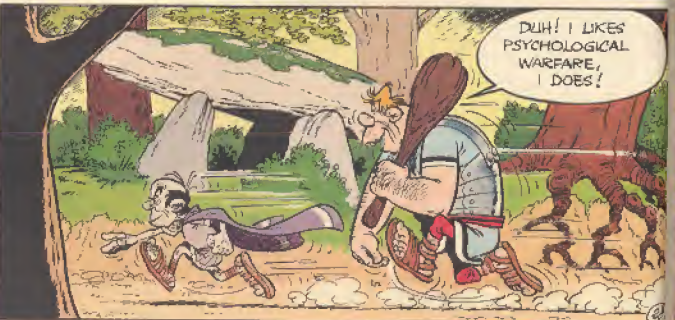
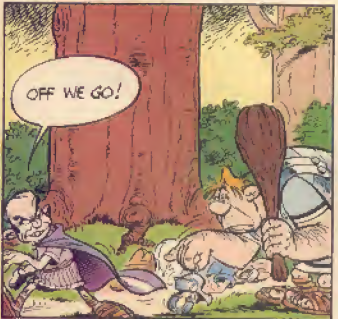
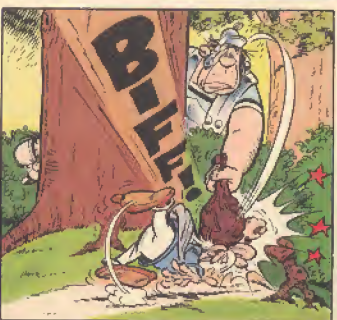
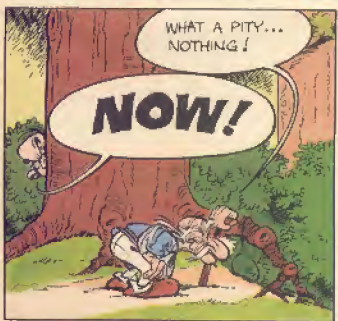
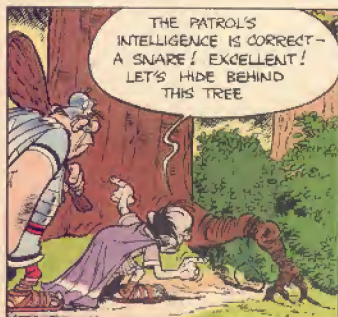
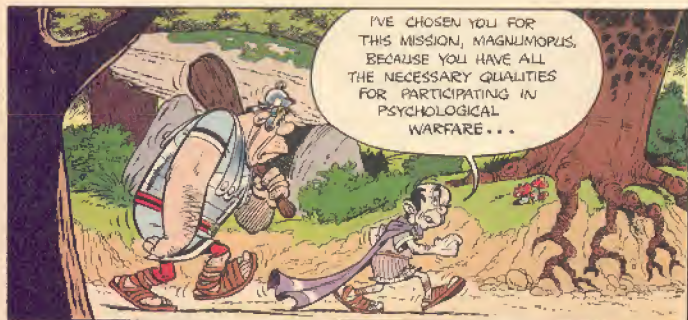
RIGHT, WHAT DO WE DO, CONVULVILLUS?



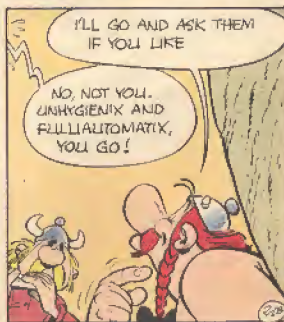
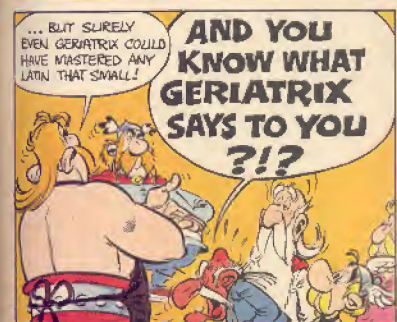
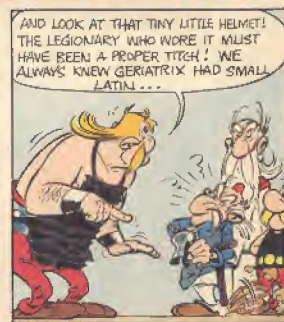
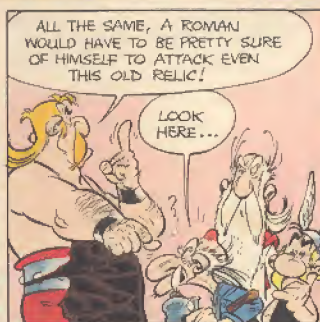
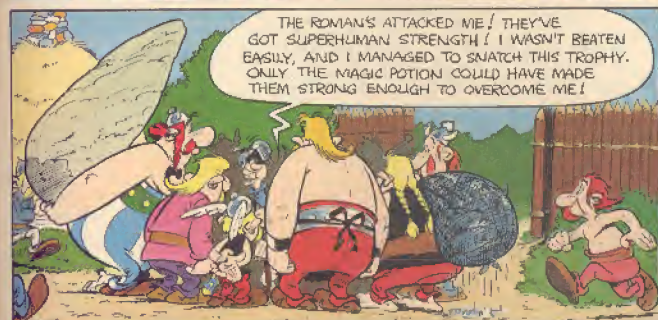
???

COME WITH ME, I'LL TELL YOU MY PLANS

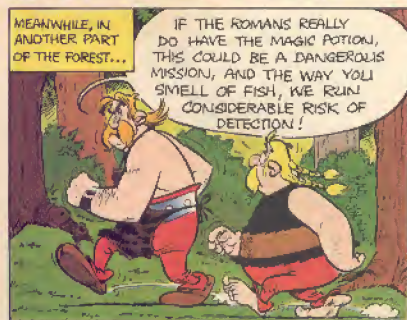
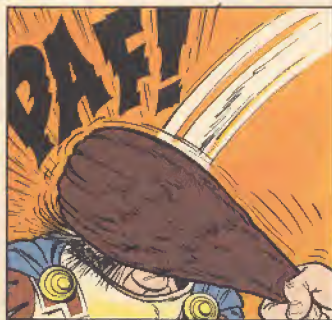
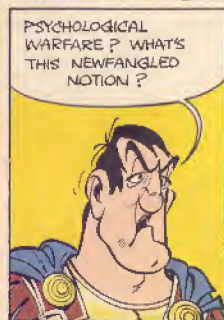
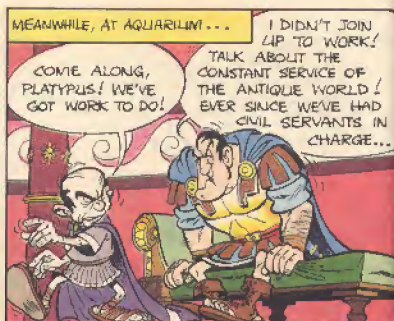




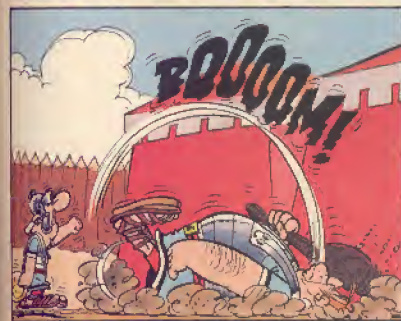
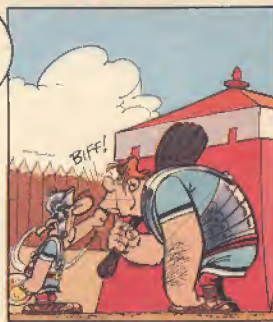
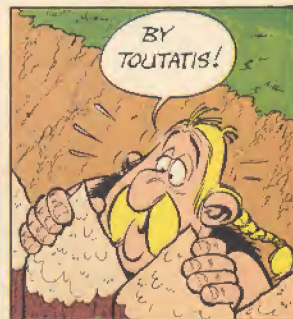
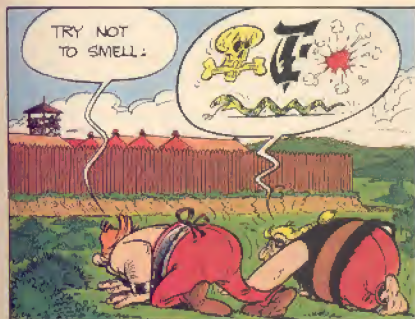




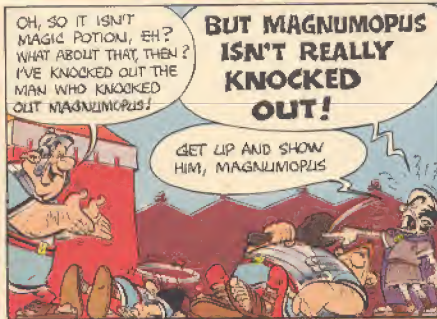
















THEY'VE GOT IT!

THE ROMANS HAVE GOT THE MAGIC POTION! WE SAW THEM!



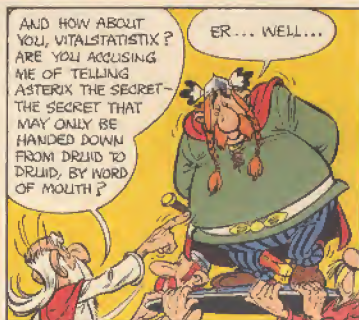
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! HOW COULD THEY HAVE MANAGED TO FIND OUT THE SECRET?

PHE! PHE!



WE'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF ROMANS AROUND THE VILLAGE LATELY

ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF GIVING THE ROMANS THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION?



AND HOW ABOUT YOU, VITALSTATISTIX? ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF TELLING ASTERIX THE SECRET- THE SECRET THAT MAY ONLY BE HANDED DOWN FROM DRUID TO DRUID, BY WORD OF MOUTH?

ER... WELL...



ALL RIGHT. I GET THE MESSAGE. I'M LEAVING THE VILLAGE

ME TOO

WELL, THEN, ME TOO

WOOF!



BUT DRUID... IF YOU WALK OUT ON US WE WON'T HAVE ANY MAGIC POTION!



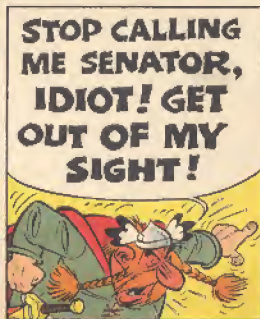
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS FALL IN IT WHEN YOU WERE BABIES!

SO THERE!



I WONDER IF HE MAY JUST POSSIBLY HAVE DONE A SILLY THING, BOYS...

YOU SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THEM, SENATOR

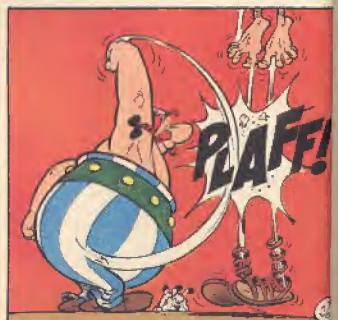


STOP CALLING ME SENATOR, IDIOT! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

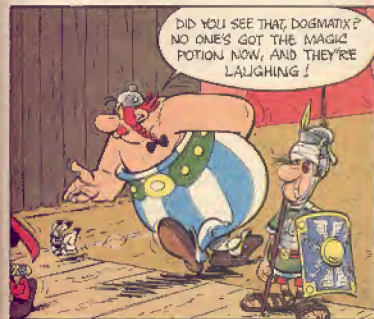
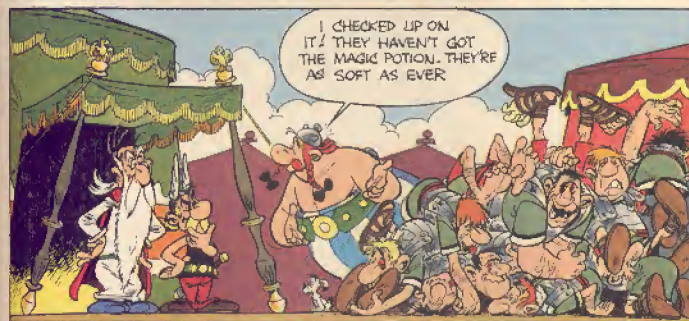
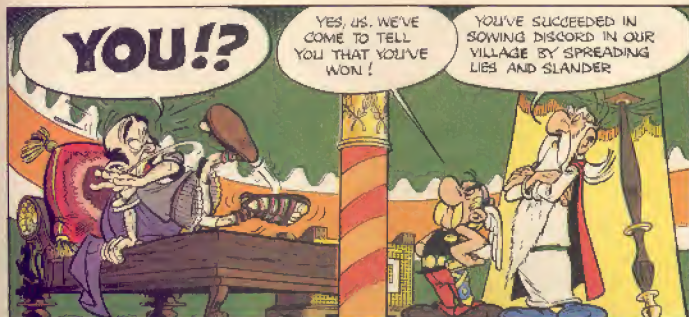


I FEEL VERY LOW...

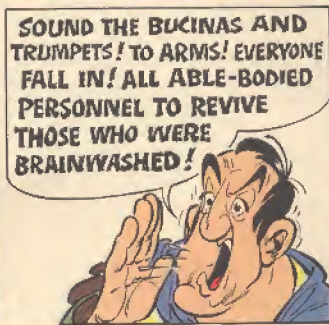














SOON  
AFTERWARDS...

RIGHT! LEGIONARIES, WE ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK  
THE GAULISH VILLAGE AND WIPE IT OFF THE FACE  
OF THE ROMAN EARTH! THE GAULS HAVEN'T GOT  
ANY MORE MAGIC POTION, AND ...

BUT... ER...  
HAVE WE  
GOT THE MAGIC  
POTION,  
THEN?

YES, OF COURSE  
WE HAVE!

NO, OF COURSE  
WE HAVEN'T!

YES,  
WE HAVE!

I TELL YOU  
WE HAVEN'T!

BUT  
HOMINICULUS...

LOOK, JOKING  
APART, HAVE WE  
GOT IT OR HAVE  
WE NOT?

LISTEN! NO ONE'S GOT  
THE MAGIC POTION, BUT  
WE OUTNUMBER THE  
GAULS TWENTY TO ONE!  
WE SHALL WIN EASILY,  
AND CAESAR WILL  
REWARD US!

SO...  
UP, LEGIONARIES,  
AND AT 'EM!

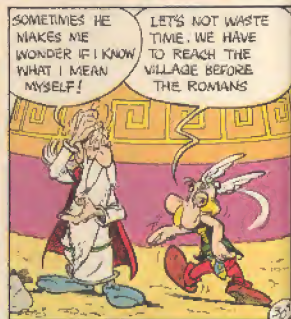
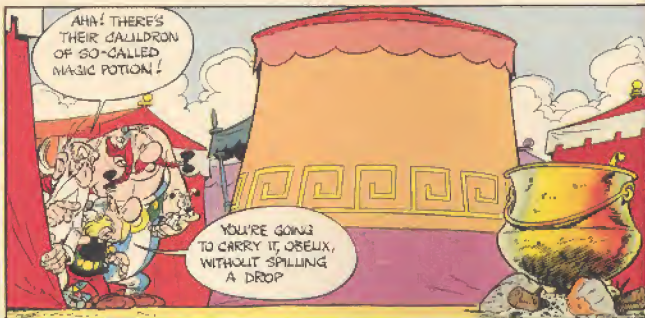
**AVE  
CAESAR!**

I SEE THAT MIXING WITH  
US HAS MADE YOU A  
CUNNING STRATEGIST!

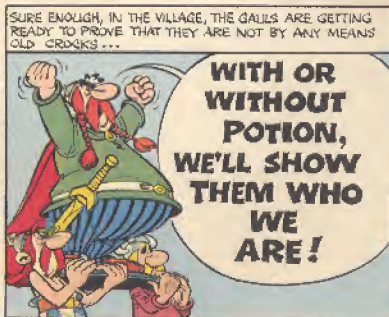
**TANTANTAR  
TARAA! BONG!  
BONG!**

IT'S WORKING LIKE A  
CHARM! THEY'VE LEFT  
THE CAMP! OFF WE  
GO!

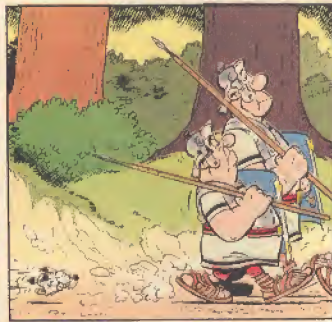
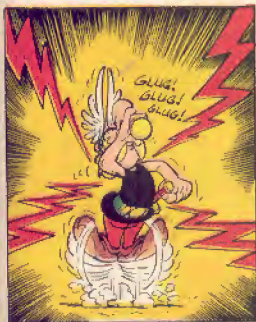




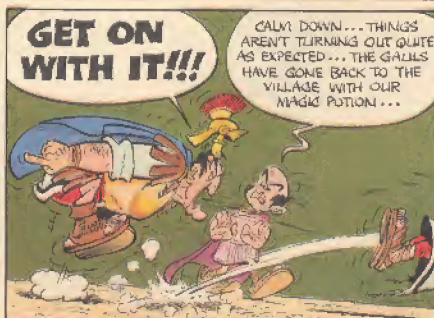
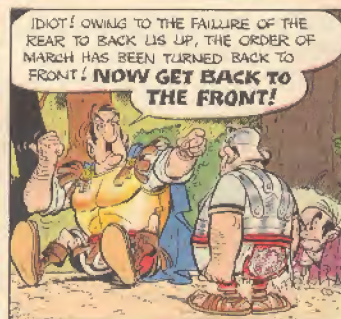
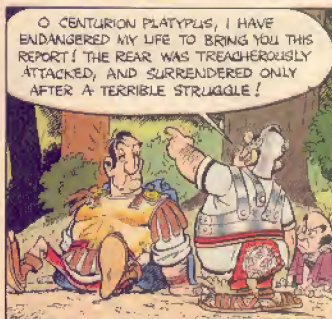
SURE ENOUGH, THE LEGIONARIES ARE PASSING THROUGH THE FOREST IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLAGE...







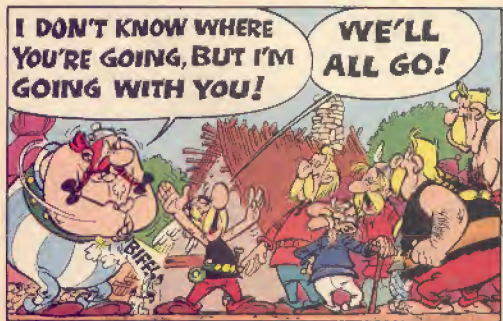
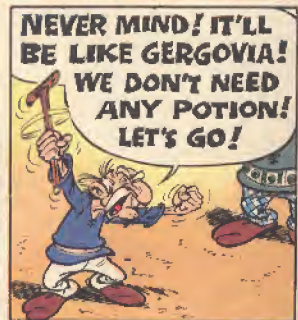
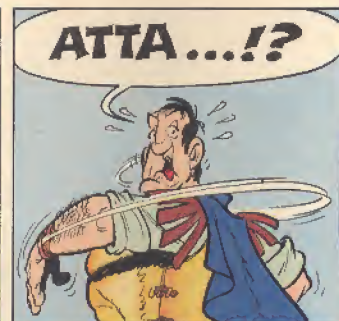




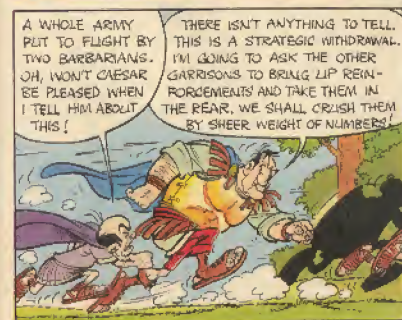
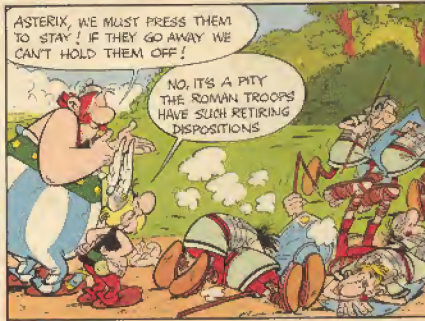
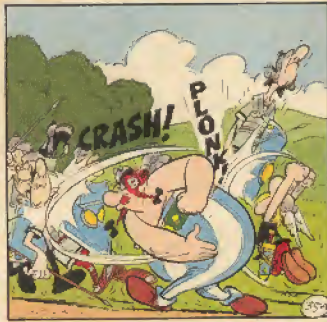
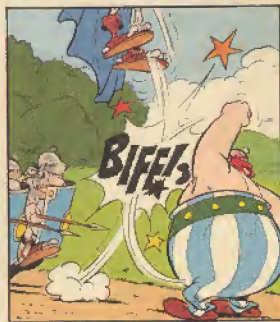
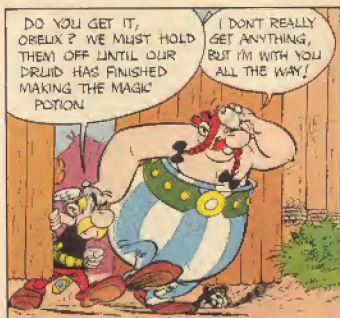




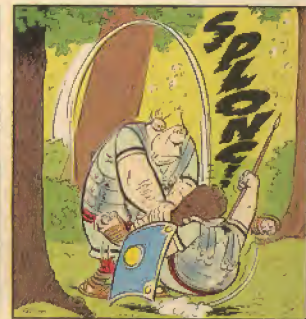
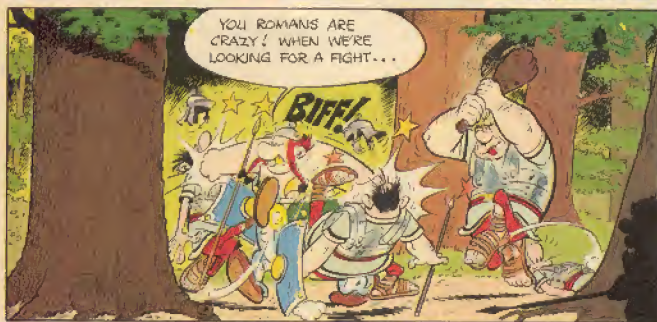
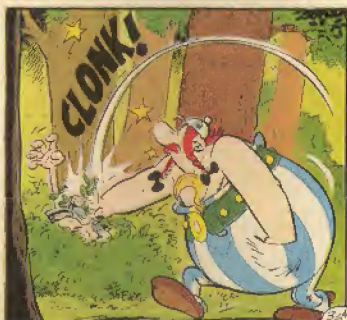
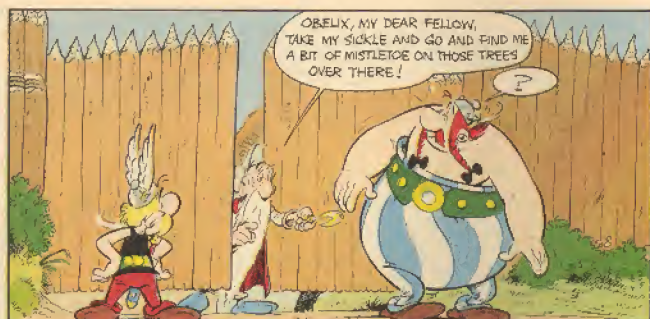




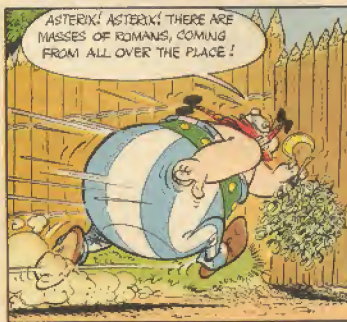
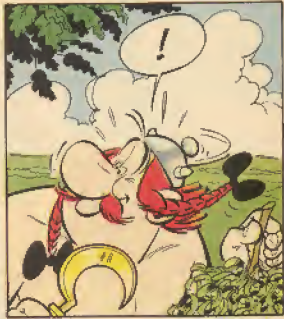
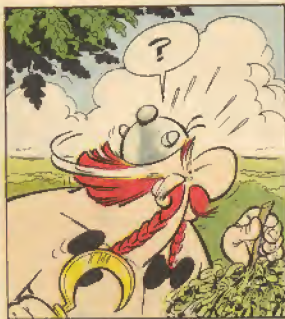














# THE BATTLE OF THE VILLAGE

Only a panoramic view can do justice to the complex nature of this terrible battle, in which a small village of indomitable Gauls comes to grips with the garrisons of the fortified Roman camps of Aquarium, Totorum, Laudanum and Compendium.



- 1 Indomitable little Gaulish village.
- 2 Garrison of Aquarium (Roman camp).
- 3 Garrison of Roman camp of Totorum.
- 4 Garrison of Roman camp of Laudanum.
- 5 Garrison of Roman camp of Compendium.
- 6, 7, 8, 9 Gauls pouring out of the village any old how, without any plan of battle.
- 10 Druid Getafix awaiting the outcome of the battle beside his cauldron, now empty.
- 11 Bard Cacophonix asking the druid what it's all about, and what, might he ask, is going on?
- 12 Pirate ship sunk by Gauls pouring out at (8) full of enthusiasm, discovering on arrival at the beach that there are no Romans available, and deciding not to waste their time anyway, by Toutatis.
- 13 Obelix, menhir delivery man, trying to keep back the Gauls while explaining to them that he got there first, he didn't ring for anyone, he would like to be left alone with his own Romans and they don't want to be disturbed.
- 14 Fulliautomatix, village blacksmith, catching sight of an old friend.
- 15 Unhygienix, village fishmonger, friend of the afore-mentioned.
- 16 Point of intersection of the two friends.
- 17 Geriatrix, village elder, engaged in single combat with Magnumopus, Roman legionary.
- 18 Vitalstatistix, chief of the Gaulish village, badly let down by his shield-bearers, who have jumped the fence without bothering to see that he kept his balance. He feels understandably downcast for a few moments.



**VITALSTATISTIX**  
Gaulish chief



**ASTERIX**  
Gaulish warrior



**OBELIX**  
menhir delivery man



**PLATYPUS**  
Roman centurion



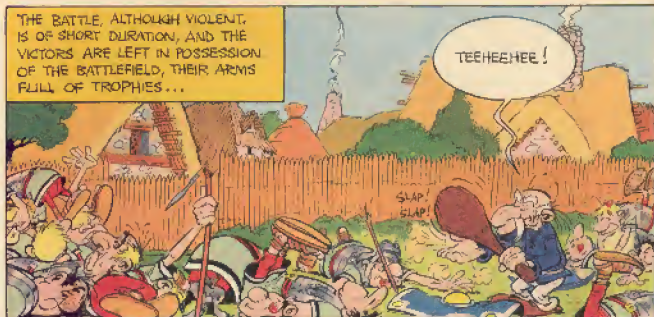
**CONVOLVULUS**  
Roman strategist



**MAGNUMOPUS**  
Roman legionary



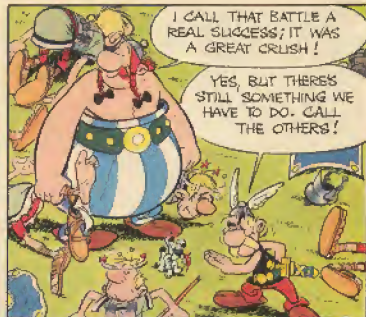
THE BATTLE, ALTHOUGH VIOLENT, IS OF SHORT DURATION, AND THE VICTORS ARE LEFT IN POSSESSION OF THE BATTLEFIELD, THEIR ARMS FULL OF TROPHIES...



TEEHEEHEE!

I CALL THAT BATTLE A REAL SUCCESS; IT WAS A GREAT CRUSH!

YES, BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO. CALL THE OTHERS!



A LITTLE FARTHER AWAY...

OH, SO THERE YOU ARE. YOU AND YOUR TROUBLEMAKING! BRAVO! OH, VERY WELL DONE! WE WERE GOING ALONG QUIETLY AS USUAL; THE GAULS WERE MINDING THEIR OWN BUSINESS, AND NOW WE'VE SUFFERED A DEFEAT, THANKS TO YOU!



AS FOR ME, I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO... IT WAS YOU OTHERS WHO...

HEY!



!!!

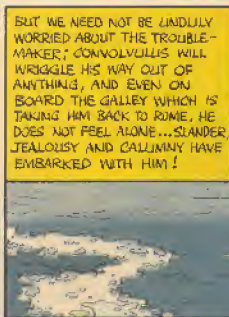
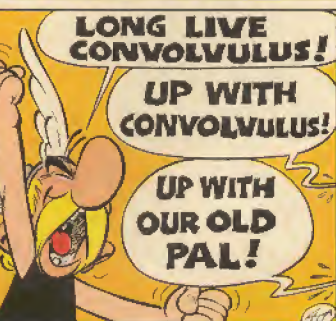
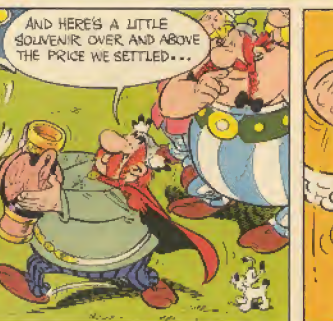


ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING... I'M NOT NEEDED HERE ANY MORE...

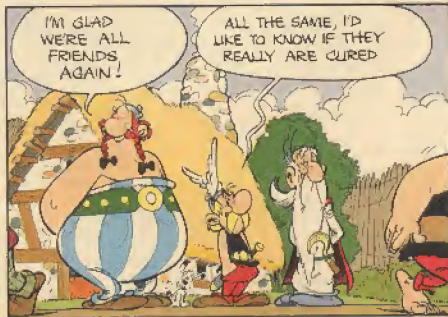
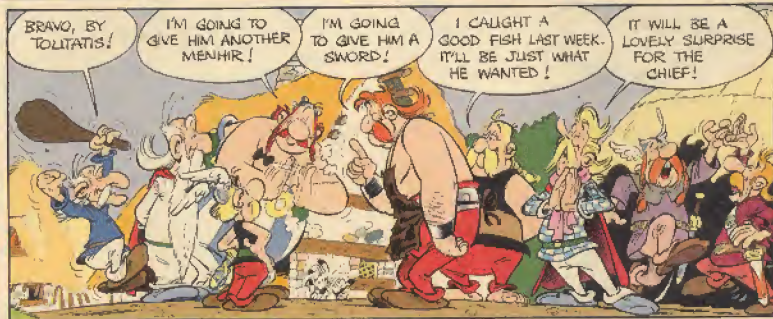
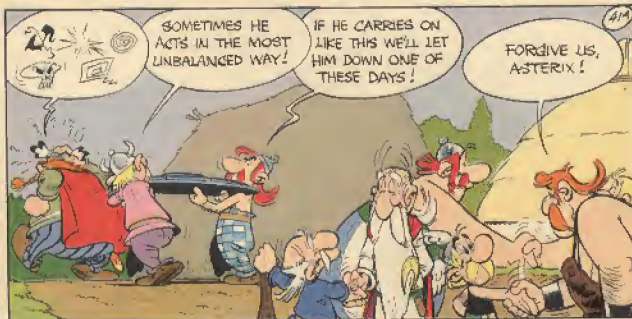
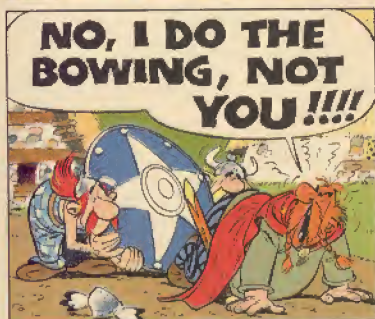
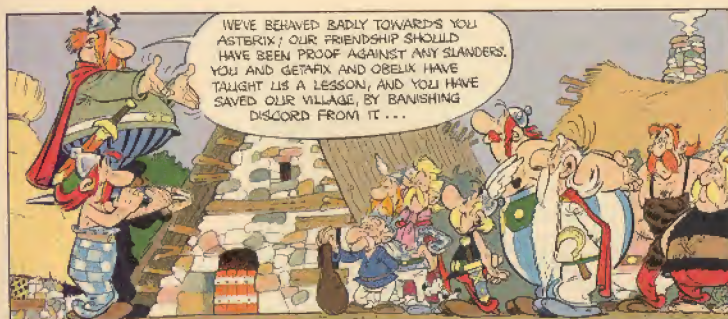
**LEGIONARIES! ARREST THAT PERSON!**













NEXT MORNING ...

UNHYGIENIX FISHMONGER

OH, LOOK AT THAT!

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

ONLY THE CHIEF IS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ABOUT THAT WAY

PERHAPS HE'S GOING TO REPLACE THE CHIEF?

I EXPECT VITALSTATISTIX APPOINTED HIM HIS SUCCESSOR AFTER THE BATTLE

IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A SUCCESSOR IT OUGHT TO BE MY HUSBAND, GERIATRIK. AFTER ALL, HE'S GOT MORE EXPERIENCE THAN ANYONE ELSE!

GERIATRIK? THAT'S NOT EXPERIENCE, THAT'S SENILITY! NOW LOOK AT FULLAUTOMATIX - YOUNG, STRONG AND...

BACTERIA! PUT AWAY THE FISH - QUICK!

FULLAUTOMATIX? THAT GREAT OAF? NOW MY HUSBAND HAS A GOOD HEAD FOR BUSINESS. A...

GOOD MORNING!

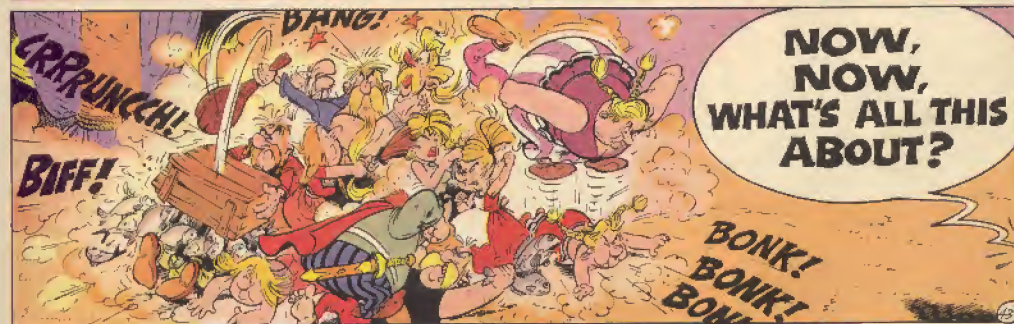
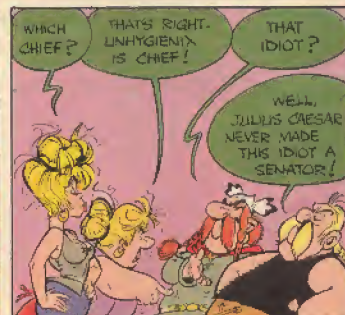
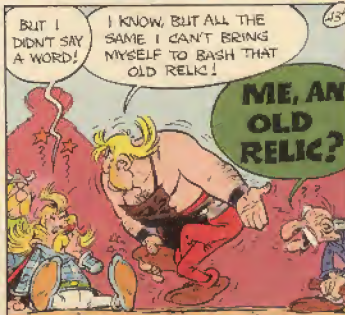
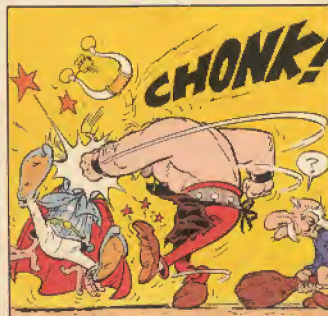
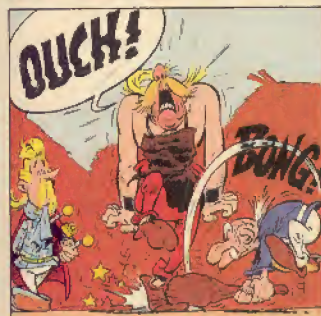
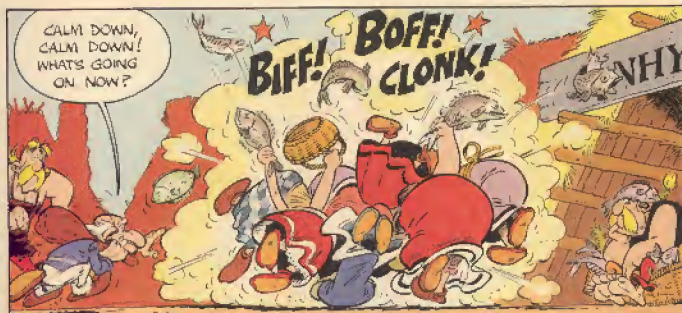
HERE! YOU STAND IN THE QUEUE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

BUT I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE!

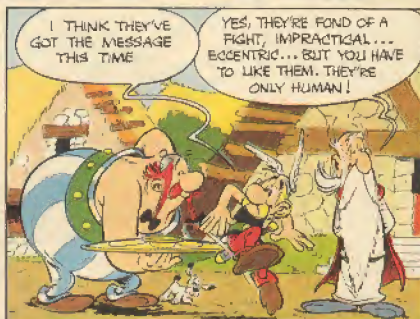
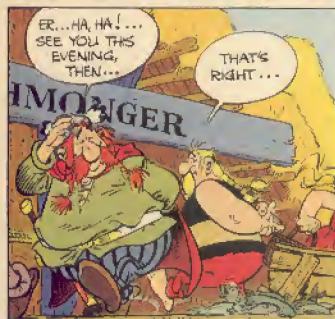
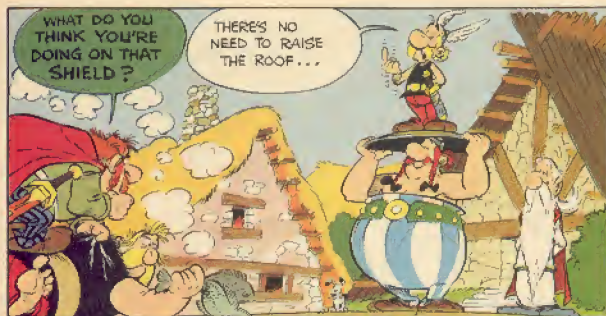
NO, I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE! SERVE ME, BACTERIA!

SPLAT!









**THE END**